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theme was slight but lusty. The house was full, many of those attending having come from London.

Eric is an exceptional citizen, who [redacted] once wanted to be an actor but was diverted from this profession by other activities. He is interested in many causes, including NATO, European Union, the visual arts, the theater, radio and television, and others.

The best pictures in the house seemed to me those by Liotard, the now famous [redacted] 18th Century Swiss painter, a friend of one of his progenitors.

There was a neighborhood cricket match on [redacted] the lawn this afternoon. When we returned from Chichester, we had a late supper, not to be excelled by anything in London. Mary Bessborough has always had a fervent and discriminating interest in everything to do with cooking.

July 8, 1962 - Sunday

de Courcel, the French Ambassador, whom I like immensely, is also staying here. This morning the weather again was good. Some of us read newspapers, others went off to church. Cricket was renewed this morning, with hundreds of spectators watching it; hoards of visitors walked around the grounds. About noon, there was an incursion of Eric's guests, most of them from the television world. After a buffet lunch, E and I left by train for London.

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July 9, 1962 - Monday

I welcomed the Air Force cadets in the USIS theater this morning. I [redacted] intended to utter a few words of welcome, but launched into a dissertation on the purposes and functions of an Embassy.

I went to call on the German Ambassador, von Etzdorf, to explain to him, whom I found entirely sympathetic and understanding, my dilemma over having

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About ten o'clock, the flow commenced. Unfortunately it had begun to rain, so the nightclub arrangements on the lawn, where it was expected the twisting would take place, were temporarily dismantled. This made little difference, for the huge library, taking up one side of the house, [redacted] easily absorbed hundreds of people for dancing. Below it was a platform covered by a voluminous [redacted] tent, containing tables weighted down with all sorts of delicacies, including Japanese quail, and with unending bottles of champagne available.

Although in the country, the women were dressed to the teeth, many [redacted] wearing tiaras and other spectacular jewelry. The men were in white ties with decorations.

The number of fine art objects in this house is remarkable. In one corridor there were huge vitrines holding enormous services of early Sevres and Meissen porcelain. Bert said [redacted] they had been exchanged with an ancestor by the King of Poland in return for a pack of stag hounds. The tapestries made to celebrate the Duke of Marlborough's victories are [redacted] splendid, as are innumerable bronzes, statues, rugs, furniture--in fact, everything that one thinks of as being of palace quality. The house is so gigantic that one has [redacted] no sense of crowding. I went to bed about three o'clock; [redacted] E followed about four, though the party was not yet over. Quantities of friends [redacted] arrived from France and the United States, to supplement the main body of Britishers.

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Something of a pall initially hung over these festivities. Bert's mother, Madame Balsan, had been desperately ill at Southampton, New York; it was only in the last few days they judged her sufficiently recovered to carry on with their plans. To top it all, Sir Winston Churchill, having broken his thigh, and having a peg put in it, [redacted] developed first pleurisy, [redacted] then what is suspected to be pneumonia.